

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 H-01 EB-08 COME-00 ARA-10
HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0678

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR,EAID, MZ, US
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL RESTRAINTS ON US ASSISTANCE TO
MOZAMBIQUE

DEPART MAY WISH TO CONSIDER USING THE FOLLOWING TALKING
POINTS IN MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF
LIFTING THE CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION ON BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
TO MOZAMBIQUE AS WELL AS THE REMOVAL OF THE INSTRUCTION THAT
THE US OPPOSE ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE FROM INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

--IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE, MOZAMBIQUE HAS
CONSCIOUSLY SOUGHT TO EXPAND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WEST,
INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER IN NEW YORK IN OCTOBER 1977. PRESIDENT MACHEL
UNDERTOOK PERSONALLY TO WORK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE
UNITED STATES. WE NOW HAVE USEFUL EXCHANGES WITH
MACHEL AND THE MOZAMBICANS ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES
OF INTEREST TO OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

-- OVER THE PAST YEAR MOZAMBIQUE'S TOP LEADERS HAVE ADOPTED A
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GENERALLY HELPFUL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT
PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIA. THE MOZAMBICANS HAVE BEEN URGING THE PATRIOTIC

FRONT LEADERS, MUGABE AND NKOMO. TO ADOPT A LESS
INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL
AND TO ENTER INTO SERIOUS TALKS WITH US WITH RESPECT TO
THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

--BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC BURDENS CAUSED BY MOZAMBIQUE'S CLOSING OF ITS BORDER WITH RHODESIA. THE GPRM GENUINELY DESIRES A RESOLUTION TO THE RHODESIA SITUATION WHICH IS ALONG THE LINES OF THE ANGLO AMERICAN PROPOSALS. WHILE THE MOZAMBICANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN POWER IN AN INDEPENDENT ZAMBABWE, THE MOZAMBICAN HAVE SAID THEY WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER LEADERSHIP CHOSEN BY THE ZIMBABWEANS IN FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS.

--DESPITE RAIDS BY KODESIAN TROOPS INTO MOZAMBIQUE WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN HUNDREDS OF DEATHS AND SERIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AND TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS LINKS, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE CUBAN PRESENCE HERE, NUMBERING ABOUT 500, IS ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN TRAINING AND ADVISING MOZAMBIQUE AND ZANU TROOPS. MOZAMBIQUE HAS SO FAR RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO CALL FOR CUBAN TROOPS TO HELP DEFEND ITS FRONTIERS.

--ALTHOUGH MOZAMBIQUE IS UNHAPPY ABOUT ITS ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA, THE TWO NATIONS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF VERY QUIET COOPERATION TO ASSURE THE ORDERLY OPERATION OF MOZAMBIQUE'S HARBOR AND RAIL FACILITIES AND TO FACILITATE MOZAMBIQUE'S PURCHASES OF FOODSTUFFS AND SPARE PARTS. SUCH COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONS OF TOTALLY DIVERGENT IDEOLOGIES COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA/ZIMBABWE- AFTER THEY BECOME INDEPENDENT.

--WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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AIDING REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS IN SOUTH AFRICA BY ANYTHING MORE THAN SERVING AS A TRANSIT POINT. THE ANC AND PAC HAVE NO TRAINING CAMPS IN MOZAMBIQUE NOR DOES THE GPRM ALLOW THEM TO STAGE OPERATIONS FROM MOZAMBIQUE.

--WHILE THE GPRM'S PRACTICES REGARDING DETENTION, PEOPLES COURTS, AND REEDUCATION CAMPS LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS FROM PERSONS HAVING SPENT TIME IN THE CAMPS INDICATE THAT CONDITIONS ARE HUMANE AND TORTURE OR OTHER DEGRADING PRACTICES ARE NOT COUNTENANCED.

--THE AMBIANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE SEEMS MUCH LESS TENSE AND REPRESSIVE THAN WAS THE CASE JUST A YEAR AGO, FEWER SOLDIERS AND ROADBLOCKS ARE IN EVIDENCE. THE GPRM HAS WELCOMED A NUMBER OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS FOR EXTENSIVE TOURS OF THE COUNTRY, AND WESTERN DIPLOMATS NO LONGER ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES FROM THE GPRM IN ARRANGING UP-COUNTRY TRAVEL. THE GPRM HAS GAINED SELF-CONFIDENCE AND THIS HAS RESULTED IN A SOMEWHAT FREER ATMOSPHERE.

--MOZAMBIQUE'S LEADERS DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE GPRM HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE SEVEN NATION LIST. THEY POINT OUT THAT THEY SEEK CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH ALL FRIENDLY NATIONS. AND THEY NOTE THE IMPROVEMENT

IN US-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

--WHILE THE GPRM HAS ANNOJNCED THAT IT WILL FOLLOW
MARXIST LENINST PRINCIPLES. IT HAS BEEN PRAGMATIC IN
ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS. THE GPRM FEELS IT HAS BEEN
RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUESTS MADE BY GENERAL TIRE IN ORDER
TO FACILITATE THE COMPLETION OF MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST TIRE
FACTORY (THE ONLY US INVESTMENT HERE SINCE INDEPENENCE).
THE GPRM HAS ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING ADDITIONAL
US INVESTMENT.

--BY CONTINUING THE CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION AND US OPPOSTION
TO ASSISTANCE FROM IFIS, WE ONLY INCREASE
MOZAMBIQUE'S DEPENDENCE ON SOCIALIST COMMUNISTS NATIONS.
THE GPRM IS ALREADY SKITTISH ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS WVTH
WESTERN ECONOMIC INSGITUTIONS IT HAS NOT SIGNED THE
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EC'S LOME CONVENTION AND HAS NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
IMF. AND OUR CURRENT POLICES SERVE TO CONFIRM THEIR
WORST SUSPICIONS.

--MOZAMIQUE CONTINUES TO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN SOUTHERN
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. OUR INABILITY TO PROVE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
TO THE GPRM IS SEEN HERE BY SOME HAS AN INDICATION OF USG
INDIFFERENCE OR HOSTILITY TOWARD MOZAMBIQUE,
AND THUS HINDERS OUT ABILITY TO GAIN THE GPRM'S
COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FOR OUR AFRICAN POLICES.
DE PREE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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